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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/518,774 | 08/29/2005 | Nicholas Tyers Parsons | 112701-442 | 4891 |
| 29157 | 7590 | 03/19/2009 | | |
| K&L Gates LLP P.O. Box 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690 | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | |
| PADEN, CAROLYN A | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 1794 | | | | |
| NOTIFICATION DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 03/19/2009 | | ELECTRONIC | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

chicago.patents@klgates.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/518,774

Applicant(s)

PARSONS ET AL.

Examiner

Carolyn A. Paden

Art Unit

1794

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 January 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 12-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 16-20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21-28 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 12-15 and 29Q is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 2, 12-15 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckett in view of Minifie.

Beckett discloses conching chocolate. Starting at part 9.1.2, liquefaction and shearing forces are described as occurring during conching. Applicant defines the elongation flow step of the claim 1 in his specification at page 5, lines 7-10, as a coating of fat particles as referred to in Industrial Chocolate. Applicant did not provide a copy of this edition of Industrial Chocolate but examiner believes that the USPTO's edition of Beckett provides the same information in Chapter 9. Beckett, at pages 122-132, shows various conches that are currently known and used in chocolate manufacture. Figure 9.14 shows a Petzholdt high intensity conch with parallel flow constrictions. The claims appear to differ from Beckett in the recitation of "lowering the viscosity of a fat based mixture comprising solids and fat that have been previously refined to a powdery mass". First these features are preamble limitations, carrying no weight in

the process claims. Second, chocolate manufacture is generally known in the art to include a refining step, which reduces the particle size of the chocolate nib to a powdery state with a particle size of 50-60 microns for dark chocolate and less than 65 microns for milk chocolate (see Minifie at bottom half of page 107, flow diagram on page 113 and page 117, third paragraph). Although "powdery" is not the specific adjective describing the refined mixture, one of ordinary skill in the art would expect a product with the particle size mentioned in Minifie to be a powdery mass. The viscosity of the chocolate is described in Beckett in the last paragraph of page 118, as lowered during the conching process due to the mechanical and shearing forces that are exerted on the chocolate mass.

Applicant argues that the prior art conches do not have die plates with a plurality of holes. This has been considered but is not persuasive because the claims do not require this feature.

The rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102 has been withdrawn.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carolyn A Paden whose telephone number is (571) 272-1403. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 7 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keith Hendricks can be reached by dialing 571-272-1401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Carolyn Paden/

Primary Examiner 1794

Application/Control Number: 10/518,774
Art Unit: 1794

Page 5